Issue of ACC and SCC by Banks

2302. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Artisans Credit Card (ACC) and Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) has been issued by different public sector banks so far in different States of the country;

(b) whether there is any scheme to provide credit facilities to weavers and artisans in the country by public sector banks; and

(c) if so, how much funds so far have been provided to these sectors and the number of beneficiaries under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State-wise data relating to the Swarojgar Credit Cards (SCCs) issued by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as on 31st December 2006 is at Annex. NABARD does not maintain data of Artisan Credit Card (ACC), which has been launched by Ministry of Textiles in consultation with NABARD.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Banks are extending the following types of credit facilities.

Laghu Udhyami Credit Card (LUCC) Scheme—The scheme was evolved by Indian Banks' Association to provide hassle free credit facilities to small borrowers with credit limit upto Rs. 2 lakh and it was launched on November 12,2001.

Artisan Credit Cards Scheme—To facilitate credit facilities to artisans, Ministry of Textiles in consultation with NABARD launched the scheme. The scheme was implemented in 2002 both in the rural and urban areas and provides adequate and timely assistance from the banking institutions to the artisans to meet their credit requirements in working capital and investment.

Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) Scheme—The scheme was introduced on September 26, 2003 and it provides for adequate and timely credit *i.e.* working capital or block capital or both to small artisans, handloom weavers, service sector fishermen, self employed persons, rickshaw owners, other micro-entrepreneurs, etc. from the banking system in a flexible, hassle free and cost effective manner.

The Ground Level Credit under Secondary Sector (secondary sector comprises of Non Farm activities/Artisans, handicrafts, Handlooms, including SSI) provided by Public Sector Commercial Banks for last 2 years is as under:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Year	Credit provided under secondary sector
2004-05	67,800
2005-06*	82,492

*Provisional

Stopping of use of foreign exchange reserves

2303. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of forex to build core sectors like infrastructure during Eleventh Plan has been stopped despite comfortable position of forex;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the current availability position and whether it is more than the anticipated peak requirement; and

(d) if so, how the excess is proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Foreign exchange reserves have not been used for building core sectors like infrastructure in the past.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US $193.1 billion on February 23,2007. Government has not fixed any target or estimated any peak requirement for foreign exchange reserves.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Personal Loans

†2304. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.